

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A driving apparatus for driving an assisting mechanism serving as an assistant for opening operation or closing operation of a door, the driving apparatus comprising:

~~a plurality of driving sources connected in parallel, wherein each driving source has a driving gear provided therewith; and~~

a plurality of driving gears that is individually provided at the driving sources;

a driven gear that is directly engaged with each of the driving gears, wherein;

an idle gear that is driven by the driven gear; and

an output gear that driven by the idle gear, wherein

each of the plurality of the driving gears has a first rotational shaft,

the driven gear has a second rotational shaft which is orthogonal to the first rotational shaft,

the idle gear has a third rotational shaft which is parallel to the second rotational shaft and is placed a predetermined distance from the second rotational shaft,

the output gear has a fourth rotational shaft which is parallel to the third rotational shaft and is placed a predetermined distance from the third rotational shaft, and

the assisting mechanism is activated through rotation of the ~~driven output gear~~ by driving of the driving sources.

2. (currently amended): The driving apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the driving gears are worms, and
the driven gear is a worm wheel;
wherein one of the worms is arranged so as to be engaged with an upper portion of the worm wheel and another one of the worms is arranged to be engaged with a lower portion of the worm wheel.

3. (currently amended): A door closer comprising:
a striker that is provided on one of a body and a door of a vehicle in such a manner that the striker is engageable with a latch provided on other of the body and the door of the vehicle;
an assisting mechanism that pulls in the striker in a state of engagement with the latch to close the door; and
a driving apparatus that drives the assisting mechanism, wherein
the driving apparatus includes
a plurality of driving sources ~~connected in parallel, wherein each driving source has a driving gear provided therewith; and~~
a plurality of driving gears that is individually provided at the driving sources;
a driven gear that is engaged with each of the driving gears; ~~and~~
an idle gear that is driven by the driven gear; and
an output gear that driven by the idle gear, wherein
each of the plurality of the driving gears has a first rotational shaft,
the driven gear has a second rotational shaft which is orthogonal to the first rotational shaft,

the idle gear has a third rotational shaft which is parallel to the second rotational shaft and is placed a predetermined distance from the second rotational shaft,

the output gear has a fourth rotational shaft which is parallel to the third rotational shaft and is placed a predetermined distance from the third rotational shaft, and

the assisting mechanism is activated through rotation of the driven output gear by driving of the driving sources.

4. (currently amended): The door closer according to claim 3, wherein
the driving gears are worms, and
the driven gear is a worm wheel;
~~wherein one of the worms is arranged so as to be engaged with an upper portion of the worm wheel and another one of the worms is arranged so as to be engaged with a lower portion of the worm wheel.~~

5. (original): The door closer according to claim 3, further comprising a switching unit that is provided between the driving sources and a power source that supplies a current to the driving sources to switch a current flow to the driving sources on and off, wherein
when the striker drawn in through the rotation of the driven gear has reached a predetermined drawing-in termination position, the switching unit cuts off the current flow to the driving sources to stop driving of the driving sources.

6. (original): The door closer according to claim 5, further comprising a detector that detects whether the latch and the striker is in engagement with each other, wherein
when a state of the latch and the striker is switched from disengagement to engagement, based on a result of detection by the detector, the switching unit starts the current flow to the driving sources.

7. (new): A door closer comprising:
a striker that is provided on one of a body and a door of a vehicle in such a manner that the striker is engageable with a latch provided on other of the body and the door of the vehicle;
an assisting mechanism that pulls in the striker in a state of engagement with the latch to close the door; and
a driving apparatus that drives the assisting mechanism, wherein
the driving apparatus includes
a plurality of driving sources connected in parallel, wherein each driving source has a driving gear provided therewith; and
a driven gear that is engaged with each of the driving gears, and
wherein the assisting mechanism is activated through rotation of the driven gear by driving of the driving sources.